



TOUMEY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

Next Toumey Park NA Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 6:30-8 PM, Columbus/Eckstrom Library, 22nd & Columbus. Agenda: Review neighborhood projects. Discuss picnic for Tucson's National Night Out sponsored by Tucson Police Dept. October 4 (see below). Election of officers. Contact for more info: Bob Bowers, 790-5214.

Neighborhood Newsletters and Meetings

This fiscal year the City will pay for 1 newsletter for each neighborhood. This is it until next July. You can find out about future meetings and events on the Internet at http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Toumey_Park. You can request email notices by sending an email to toumeypark@cox.net or by calling Bob (above).

Meetings are scheduled in December, March and June, however this newsletter is the only means we have of sending notice to the whole neighborhood. Some meetings will not be at the Columbus Library as we cannot book very far in advance. Meeting schedule:

- Thursday, December 15, 6:30 PM, Columbus Library
- Wednesday, March 14, 6:30 PM, Ramada, Toumey Park
- Wednesday, June 13, 6:30 PM, Ramada, Toumey Park (or a notice will be posted there if the Library can be available)

Tucson National Night Out – Tuesday, October 4, 6 PM

Most of the rest of the nation celebrated this event in August, but Tucson and other Southwestern cities are holding it later to avoid the heat and possible rain. Some Tucson neighborhoods did observe this event in August, but TPD asked neighborhoods to wait until October. This year's Tucson National Night Out is Tuesday, October 4. Toumey Park will have a picnic that evening at the park ramada at 6 PM. You will be asked to bring your own food. You may bring enough to share with others if you wish, especially desserts. Neighborhood businesses will be asked to fund soda, bottled water, paper plates, tableware and napkins to be provided. You can put that date on your calendar.

What's Happening with Toumey Park Projects?

So, you remember we got funding for projects, and whatever happened to them? You approved plans in 2006 and 2007, and now it's 2011! In fact over the past 6 years we have received funding of close to \$1 million for various projects from City, County and State sources. It's frustrating, but it takes time. (None of this funding increased property taxes, by the way.) In addition to \$\$\$ we also received assistance in the form of planning with support from planning professionals from Pro Neighborhoods and the Drachman Foundation.

The first project completed a few years ago was new play equipment in the park and speed humps and speed tables on Venice, Eastland and 19th to calm traffic around the park. That was funded by a combination of Back to Basics funds from Ward 6 and gifts from the Tohono O'Odham tribe and private individuals in the neighborhood. The traffic control has worked very well, and the park has seen increased and responsible use for several years now, reviving from a time 6 years ago of almost no use.

Columbus Pedestrian Pathway – This will be a 6' wide paved path extending from existing sidewalks near 22nd St to Timrod St and the east side of Columbus Blvd. Funding was approved over 2 years ago. A public hearing was held last fall by Tucson Dept of Transportation. The plans are now in the stage of federally required environmental impact studies, as funds came from the State for this project but from federal sources. Another hearing is expected sometime this fall. Construction is not expected until late 2012.

The rest of the projects below are funded by Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment grant, however the City and County have not completed agreements to do the work. Notice was received that the inter-governmental agreement has been submitted to Mayor and Council for approval.

More Park Improvements – A major part of this project is a paved path around the park for walking and exercise. Additional play equipment will be installed near the existing equipment, swings for both adults and children. We're also hoping for some new trees and picnic tables.

Sidewalks – Neighbors asked for sidewalks on part of 16th St where there are none, and these are in the plan.

Traffic Control – The neighborhood voted when these projects were approved to install additional speed humps on all neighborhood streets. Sometime this fall residents will be asked to sign the City documents which give permission to install the speed humps on a block by block basis. There are also plans for traffic circles in some intersections.

Street Lighting – There was no means to install street lights throughout the neighborhood. Most of the neighborhood has very narrow City right of way at the curb. Not enough funds can be obtained in any case. In 2008 Ward 6 had agreed to provide funding for TEP dusk-to-dawn lights on utility poles along Venice, however funding for this disappeared with the beginning of the recession. Ward 6 will be asked to consider that request again.

No Motorized Vehicles in the Park, Please

No motorized vehicles of any type are permitted in the park. Citations can be issued by TPD and Parks personnel. This includes ATVs, even small ones made for children, motorcycles, scooters, and motorized bicycles, all not allowed in the park.

Next Brush and Bulky Pickup

According to the City's schedule, the next brush and bulky pickup will begin Monday, September 26. At the neighborhood meetings we will also discuss dates when we can schedule City waste roll-offs for the neighborhood for cleanup dates.

How to Get Involved?

This is your neighborhood. How can you get involved? Please come to the meetings. What would you like to see improve or happen in our neighborhood? Your neighbors don't know and can't help unless you attend. Meetings have not been well-attended for about 2 years. There has not been much to discuss as the projects are taking a long time to come to realization. Problems are minor, and the neighborhood has been quiet with little crime. We can keep it that way with your help and participation. Everyone is welcome, both owners and renters.

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